26 Nov. 1990

Dear Nat & Liz, Shalom Aleichem!

Yes, the "bald eagle" has landed, but that's neither hair nor there, nor do I have any "hair raising" news to tell you of my experiences in Israel during this Gulf crisis. Israel has lived thru over 40 yrs of crises and has become quite used to living with another one. The Israelis I work with have been thru 5 wars and expect to face many more. One, my interpreter, survived the Yom Kippur war and the Lebanon war that left him crippled. He was a paratrooper and the only survivor in his platoon. He gets 100% disability from Jay for his physical wounds. But he is 100% fit in his mental, emotional and patriotic spirit. At age 40 he is no longer eligible for the next war, but his son is. Like father, his son volunteered for the Commando paratrooper service and cannot be talked out of it by his parents. The father has the premonition that his son will be dead in the next war. That's the price Israeli parents pay for their freedom and independence. They do not take their wars lightly. There was not a single Israeli family with whom I have come in contact that did not suffer casualty in the past wars and are prepared to sacrifice more of their loved ones to remain free. The Arabs fight with oil — the Israelis with blood.

So if you and other Americans — Jews and non-Jews want to know how Israel feels about the Gulf crisis, I can tell you that they are concerned but not afraid to face it and feel confident they will come out victorious as in the past battles with Iraq and the other Arab States. They know the loss of a war means the loss of their country and another holocaust. So what choice do they have? One Masada is enough!

Now, as for the Arabs I work with, another war

is only another adventure to become a martyr for Allah. And I speak of the Israeli Arabs. They make no bones about supporting Saddam Hussein, in the hope that the wealth of the "Arab oil" will be distributed to poor Arabs.

I've learned something about the Arabs I've not known, understood or appreciated before; Arabs live by the Koran. Their lives are governed by their religion ~~which contains~~ Islam, which controls their social, political, economic and family behavior. It is really frightening how Islam dominates the Arab believers. Any deviation is blasphemy. Collaborators are killed and writers of "Satanic Verses" (?) are infidels marked for assassination with a $3 million reward for the assassin.

Arabs don't understand democracy and never will. Throughout history they have been ruled by Muslim dictators and the Koran was their constitution. It is no different to day. Every Arab country is now ruled by a dictator or an autocrat, and the Arabs don't mind it because the Koran says it's correct. (Incidentally, that's the mentality of the Russians. They have a Serf attitude which will never change; Gorbachov notwithstanding.)

The Israelis don't understand how America and the other "democracies" are going to ~~to~~ save Kuwait and Saudi Arabia for the "pottage of oil" and will not protect Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East, from the Arab dictators bent to destroy it.

The feeling in Israel is that there will not be a war, Saddam will get out of Kuwait (as he did with Iran), and that Iraq's military might will eventually turn on Israel. This will unite all the Arab countries in a jehad against Israel and the world will stand by (as they did in the 6 day war in the belief that peace will come to save the oil pipe lines to the Western nations. Just as Chamberlain thought when he made a deal with Hitler in Munich for "peace in our time". There will be a war and it will be against Israel. Israel is prepared for that war and is confident that the Arabs will lose again. This time their defeat will be bloodier than in the 6 day War. It will be a modern struggle between David and Goliath. This time the plow shot will carry atomic "stones"; not for reasons of vengeance but for reasons of survival.

This is my answer to your request that I give you my understanding of events in Israel. All the rest will be only commentary.

Next week I'd be off for Florida and even I won't do that.

P.S. As I've written and said all I know, or think I know, there will be no need for the company paper. Del